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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellant: Kalsi
Serial No: 09/674,870
Filed: December 18, 2000
Examiner: Walsh, John B.
Group Art No: 3676
TITLE: LATCH MECHANISM

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop – Appeal Brief
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Subsequent to the filing of the Notice of Appeal on September 2, 2004, Appellant hereby submits its brief. A check for \$450.00 is enclosed for the Appeal Brief fee (\$340.00) and a one-month extension of time (\$110.00). However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C for any additional fees.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is Meritor Light Vehicle Systems (UK) Limited, the assignee of the entire right and interest in this Application.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no appeals or interferences related to the present application of which the Appellants are aware.

12/03/2004 DEMMANU1 00000011 09674870

01 FC:1402	340.00 OP
02 FC:1251	110.00 OP

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-21, 29-34, 39 and 48-50 remain in the application including independent claims 1, 5, 8, 9, 15, 29, 33 and 39.

Claims 1-3, 5, 14, 18, 19, 29 and 32-34 stand finally rejected under 102(b). Claims 6, 7, 10-13, 20, 21, 30, 31 and 48-50 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 8, 9, 5, 17 and 39 have been allowed.

STATUS OF AMENDMENT

All amendments have been entered.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a latch mechanism 10 including a housing 11, a pawl 15 movably mounted in the housing 11 to release a latch 12, and at least one of an inside lock link 21 and an outside lock link 22 that is movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member 40 causes movement of the pawl 15 to release the latch 12 and a second position at which operation of the associated release member 40 does not cause movement of the pawl 15 (page 3, lines 6-27). At least one of the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22 is mounted such that movement of the pawl 15 is necessarily accompanied by movement of at least one of the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22. At least one of the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22 is pivotally mounted for rotational movement between the first position and the second position (page 3, lines 21-22). This basic structure is set forth in independent claim 1.

Claim 14 depends on claim 1 and adds that a power actuator moves at least one of the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22. Claim 18 also depends on claim 1 and adds a single power actuator effects changing of the latch mechanism 10 between the alternates states of operating modes (page 3, line 31 to page 4, lines 1-2).

Independent claim 5 recites a latch mechanism including a housing 11, a pawl 15 movably mounted in the housing 11 to release a latch 12, and an inside lock link 21 and an outside lock link 22 mounted to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member 40 causes movement of the pawl 15 to release the latch 12 and a second position at which operation of the associated release member 40 does not cause

movement of the pawl 15. (page 3, lines 6-27). The inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22 are mounted such that movement of the pawl 15 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22. Both the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22 are mounted for movement with the pawl 15 (page 3, lines 21-20).

Independent claim 29 recites a latch mechanism including a housing 11, a pawl 15 movably mounted in the housing 11 to release a latch 12, and at least one of an inside lock link 21 and an outside lock link 22 mounted to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member 40 causes movement of the pawl 15 to release the latch 12 and a second position at which operation of the associated release member 40 does not cause movement of the pawl 15 (page 3, lines 6-27). At least one of the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22 is mounted such that movement of the pawl 15 is necessarily accompanied by movement of at least one of the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22. At least one of the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22 is mounted for rotation about a common first axis with the pawl 15 (page 6, lines 11-12).

Independent claim 33 recites a latch mechanism including a housing 11, a pawl 15 movably mounted in the housing 11 to release a latch 12, and an inside lock link 21 and an outside lock link 22 mounted to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member 40 causes movement of the pawl 15 to release the latch 12 and a second position at which operation of the associated release member 40 does not cause movement of the pawl 15 (page 3, lines 6-27). The inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22 are mounted such that movement of the pawl 15 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22. Both the inside lock link 21 and the outside lock link 22 are mounted for rotation about a common first axis with the pawl 15 (page 6, lines 11-12).

ISSUES

1. Is the final rejection of Claims 1-3, 5, 14, 18, 19, 29 and 32-34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) proper over U.S. Patent No. 5,653,484 to Brackmann?

PATENTABILITY ARGUMENTS

A. Claims 1 and 2

Claims 1 and 2 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brackmann. Claims 1 and 2 recite a latch mechanism including at least one of an inside and outside lock link that is “mounted so as to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl.” Claims 1 and 2 additionally recite that the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is “mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link.” The Examiner contends that the outside actuating lever 5 of Brackmann is an outside lock link, and therefore the claimed invention is anticipated. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Brackmann does not disclose that at least one of an inside and outside lock link is mounted to be moveable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl. In Brackmann, there is a connection between an outside door handle 24 and the outside actuating lever 5. When a user pulls on the outside door handle 24, this moves the outside actuating lever 5 (column 3, lines 19 to 23). If a link lever 10 of Brackmann is shifted to the left as shown in Figure 1, the outside actuating lever 5 is coupled to a pivotal release lever 3. As a result, movement of the outside actuating lever 5 actuates the link lever 10 via an entrainment nose 15 of the outside actuating lever 5 and a coupling pin 17 of the link lever 10, and in turn actuates the pivotal release lever 3. The pivotal release lever 3 is provided with a bent over tab 28. The tab 28 engages a pin 27 of a pawl 2, and the pawl 2 moves to release a fork 1 and unlatch the latch (column 3, lines 36-51). If the link lever 10 is shifted to the right as shown in figure 2, the entrainment formation 15 misses the pin 17 and movement of the outside actuating lever 5 is **not** transmitted to release the fork 1 and unlatch the latch.

Actuation of the outside door handle 24 causes the outside actuating lever 5 to move as a link in a chain during actuation. In other words, the outside actuating lever 5 always moves from a first position to a second position when the outside door handle 24 is pulled. However, the first and second positions of the outside actuating lever 5 **do not** select whether pulling on the outside

door handle 24 results in movement of the pawl 2, as is claimed. In fact, the shifting of the link lever 10 performs this function, so that either the entrainment formation 15 contacts or does not contact the coupling pin 17. The claims are not anticipated.

Additionally, Brackmann does not disclose that the outside actuating lever 5 is mounted such that movement of the pawl 2 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the outside actuating lever 5. In Brackmann, during unlatching, movement of the outside actuating lever 5 causes movement of the pawl 2 to release the fork 1. However, during re-latching, the pawl 2 pivots as it rides over the periphery of the fork 1, and the pin 27 of the pawl 2 will lift clear of the tab 28 of the release lever 3 during re-latching. The release lever 3 is not moved during re-latching. Therefore, the outside actuating lever 5 is not affected during re-latching. The outside actuating lever 5 does not necessarily move when the pawl 2 moves because the outside actuating lever 5 is not affected during re-latching. Brackmann does not disclose that movement of the outside actuating lever 5 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the outside actuating lever 5. The claimed invention is not anticipated. Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

B. Claim 3

Claim 3 stands finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brackmann. Claim 3 depends on claim 1 and recites that a pawl lifter is connected to the pawl and the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is mounted on the pawl lifter. The examiner contends that the link lever 10 is a pawl lifter, and that the outside actuating lever 5 is mounted on the link lever 10, and therefore the invention defined in claim 3 is anticipated. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Brackmann discloses that the outside actuating lever 5 is mounted to a chassis of the latch at its left hand side when viewed in Figure 1. The link lever 10 is mounted with respect to a main locking lever 7 and "floats" relative to the release lever 5 (column 3, lines 36 to 38). The only contact between the outside actuating lever 5 and the link lever 10 occurs when a coupling pin 17 of the link lever 10 contacts an entrainment formation 15 of the outside actuating lever 5. This does not constitute the outside actuating lever being mounted on the link lever 10 as is claimed. Claim 3 is not anticipated. Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

C. Claim 14

Claim 14 stands finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brackmann. Claim 14 depends on claim 1 and recites that a power actuator effects movement of at least one of the inside and outside lock link between a first and a second position. The Examiner contends that the connection between the outside door handle 24 and the outside actuating lever 5 acts as a power actuator as it transfers power from the outside door handle 24 to the outside actuating lever 5. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Brackmann does not disclose a power actuator. The outside door handle 24 is manually actuated to unlatch the latch. Therefore, the outside actuating lever 5 is manually actuated by the outside door handle 24. Even though actuation of the outside door handle 24 is needed to cause actuation of the outside actuating lever 5, this is not powered actuation. The actuation is manual. Nothing in Brackmann discloses that the outside actuating lever 5 as power actuated. Claim 14 is not anticipated, and Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

D. Claims 18 and 19

Claims 18 and 19 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brackmann. Claims 18 and 19 depend on claim 1 and recite that the latch mechanism has a set of modes each having alternate states. Each set includes at least one of a lock mode and a superlock mode and at least one of a child safety mode and a release mode. A single power actuator changes the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of the modes. The Examiner contends that the key-cylinder 21 of Brackmann is the single power actuator, and therefore the claimed invention is anticipated. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Brackmann does not disclose a single power actuator that changes the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of a set of modes. In Brackmann, the key cylinder 21 is accessible from outside the door 26 and would receive a key to unlock the door 26. Once the door 26 is unlocked, the latch can be unlatched and the door 26 opened by actuating a handle 23 or 24. Brackmann does not disclose that the key cylinder 21 is a power actuator, but only discloses that the door 26 includes a key cylinder 21. Claims 18 and 19 are not anticipated.

E. Claim 32

Claim 32 stands finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brackmann. Claim 32 depends on claim 1 and recites that the at least one lock link comprises both an inside and outside lock link, and both the inside and outside lock links are mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of both the inside and outside lock link. The Examiner contends that the inside actuating lever 4 and the outside actuating lever 5 of Brackmann are mounted for movement with the pawl 2, and therefore the claimed invention is anticipated. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Brackmann does not disclose that the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 are mounted such that movement of the pawl 2 is necessarily accompanied by movement of both the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4. In Brackmann, during unlatching, movement of the outside actuating lever 5 or the inside actuating lever 4 causes movement of the pawl 2 to release the fork 1. However, during re-latching, the pawl 2 pivots as it rides over the periphery of the fork 1, and the pin 27 of the pawl 2 will lift clear of the tab 28 of the release lever 3 during re-latching. The release lever 3 is not moved during re-latching. Therefore, the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 are not affected during re-latching. The outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 do not necessarily move when the pawl 2 moves because the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 are not affected during re-latching. Brackmann does not disclose that movement of the pawl 12 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4. The claimed invention is not anticipated. Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

F. Claim 5

Claim 5 stands finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brackmann. Claim 5 recites that both the inside and outside lock link are mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of both the inside and outside lock link. The Examiner contends that the inside actuating lever 4 and the outside actuating lever 5 of Brackmann are mounted for movement with the pawl 2, and therefore the claimed invention is anticipated. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Brackmann does not disclose that the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 are mounted such that movement of the pawl 2 is necessarily accompanied by movement of both the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4. In Brackmann, during unlatching, movement of the outside actuating lever 5 or the inside actuating lever 4 causes movement of the pawl 2 to release the fork 1. However, during re-latching, the pawl 2 pivots as it rides over the periphery of the fork 1, and the pin 27 of the pawl 2 will lift clear of the tab 28 of the release lever 3 during re-latching. The release lever 3 is not moved during re-latching. Therefore, the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 are not affected during re-latching. The outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 do not necessarily move when the pawl 2 moves because the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 are not affected during re-latching. Brackmann does not disclose that movement of the pawl 2 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4. The claimed invention is not anticipated. Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

G. Claim 29

Claim 29 stands finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brackmann. Claim 29 recites a latch mechanism including a pawl and at least one of an inside and outside lock link, and “movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the link.” The claim also recites that at least one of the inside and outside lock link is “mounted for rotation about a common first axis with the pawl.” The Examiner contends that the housing of the door 26 has an axis, and if the latch were rotated about this axis, both the outside actuating lever 5 and the pawl 2 would rotate about this axis, and therefore the claimed invention is anticipated. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Brackmann does not disclose that the outside actuating lever 5 is mounted such that movement of the pawl 2 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the outside actuating lever 5. In Brackmann, during unlatching, movement of the outside actuating lever 5 causes movement of the pawl 2 to release the fork 1. However, during re-latching, the pawl 2 pivots as it rides over the periphery of the fork 1, and the pin 27 of the pawl 2 will lift clear of the tab 28 of the release lever 3 during re-latching. The release lever 3 is not moved during re-latching. Therefore, the outside actuating lever 5 is not affected during re-latching. The outside actuating

lever 5 does not necessarily move when the pawl 2 moves because the outside actuating lever 5 is not affected during re-latching. Brackmann does not disclose that movement of the outside actuating lever 5 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the outside actuating lever 5. The claimed invention is not anticipated.

Additionally, Brackmann does not disclose that the outside actuating lever 5 rotates about a common axis with the pawl 2. The claim recites that the outside lock link is mounted for rotation about a common axis, not that the housing is rotatable about an axis. In Brackmann, when the pawl 2 and the outside actuating lever 5 move during unlatching, the pawl 2 pivots about a pivot axis and the outside actuating lever 5 also pivots about a pivot axis. However, Brackmann fails to disclose the location of the pivot axis of the pawl. Therefore, Brackmann does not disclose this feature of the claim. Brackmann does not disclose that the outside actuating lever 5 and the pawl 2 rotate about a common axis. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

H. Claims 33 and 34

Claims 33 and 34 stand finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brackmann. Claims 33 and 34 recite a latch mechanism including a pawl and at least one of an inside and outside lock link, and "movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the link." At least one of an inside and outside lock link is "mounted for rotation about a common first axis with the pawl." The Examiner contends that the housing of the door 26 has an axis, and if the latch were rotated about this axis, both the outside actuating lever 5 and the pawl 2 would rotate about this axis, and therefore the claimed invention is anticipated. Appellant respectfully disagrees.

Brackmann does not disclose that the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 are both mounted such that movement of the pawl 2 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4. In Brackmann, during unlatching, movement of the outside actuating lever 5 or the inside actuating lever 4 causes movement of the pawl 2 to release the fork 1. However, during re-latching, the pawl 2 pivots as it rides over the periphery of the fork 1, and the pin 27 of the pawl 2 will lift clear of the tab 28 of the release lever 3 during re-latching. The release lever 3 is not moved during re-latching. Therefore, the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 are not affected

during re-latching. The outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 do not necessarily move when the pawl 2 moves because the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 are not affected during re-latching. Brackmann does not disclose that movement of the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 is necessarily accompanied by movement of the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4. The claimed invention is not anticipated.

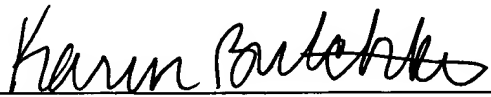
Additionally, Brackmann does not disclose that the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 rotate about a common axis with the pawl 2. The claim recites that both the outside and inside lock link are mounted for rotation about a common axis, not that the housing is rotatable about an axis. In Brackmann, when the pawl 2 and the outside actuating lever 5 or the inside actuating lever 4 move during unlatching, the pawl 2 pivots about a pivot axis and the actuating lever also pivots about a pivot axis. However, Brackmann does not disclose the location of the pivot axis of the pawl. Brackmann does not disclose that the outside actuating lever 5 and the inside actuating lever 4 rotate about a common axis with the pawl 2. Brackmann does not disclose this feature of the claim. Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

CLOSING

For the reasons set forth above, the rejection of all claims is improper and should be reversed. Appellant respectfully requests such an action.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

By: 

Karin H. Butchko
Reg. No. 45,864
400 W. Maple Road
Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: November 29, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this Appeal Brief is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 29, 2004.


Amy Spaulding

APPENDIX

1. A latch mechanism including a housing, a pawl movably mounted in the housing to release a latch, at least one of an inside and outside lock link mounted so as to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl wherein the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link and in which the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is pivotally mounted for rotational movement between the first and second positions.
2. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 in which the pawl is rotatably mounted in the housing.
3. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 in which a pawl lifter is connected to the pawl and the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is mounted on the pawl lifter.
5. A latch mechanism including a housing, a pawl movably mounted in the housing to release a latch, at least one of an inside and outside lock link mounted so as to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl wherein the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the link and wherein the at least one of an inside and outside lock link comprises both an inside and outside lock links and in which the inside and outside lock links are both mounted for movement with the pawl.
6. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 in which indexing of a cam effects movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link between the first and second positions.

7. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 6 in which the cam is rotationally mounted for indexing.

8. A latch mechanism including a housing, a pawl movably mounted in a housing to release the latch, with at least one of an inside and outside lock link mounted for movement with the pawl with the at least one of an inside and outside lock link being movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl in which indexing of a cam effects movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link between the first and second positions, in which the cam is rotationally mounted for indexing and in which the cam is rotationally mounted co-axially with the pawl

9. A latch mechanism including a housing, a pawl movably mounted in a housing to release the latch, with at least one of an inside and outside lock link mounted for movement with the pawl with the at least one of an inside and outside lock link being movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl in which indexing of a cam effects movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link between the first and second positions, and in which the cam includes at least 2 cam lobes which position the at least one of an inside and outside lock link in one of the first and second positions, with the at least 2 cam lobes being separated by a cam valley which positions the at least one of an inside and outside lock link in the other of the first and second positions.

10. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 6 wherein the at least one of an inside and outside lock link comprises both an inside and outside lock links and in which indexing of the cam effects movement of both the inside and outside lock links.

11. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 6 in which the cam has a plurality of lobes.

12. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 6 in which the release member is capable of indexing the cam to move the at least one of an inside and outside lock link between the first and second positions.

13. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 12 in which the release member is capable of indexing the cam to move the at least one of an inside and outside lock link from the second position to the first position.

14. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 in which movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link between the first and second position is effected by a power actuator.

15. A latch mechanism including a housing, a pawl movably mounted in a housing to release the latch, with at least one of an inside and outside lock link mounted for movement with the pawl with the at least one of an inside and outside lock link being movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl in which the pawl is capable of being moved to release the latch by a power actuator in which the power actuator indexes a cam as well as the pawl wherein indexing of the cam effects movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link between the first and second positions.

17. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 15 in which the power actuator drives the cam such that an abutment on the cam operatively co-acts with an abutment fastened with the pawl to release the latch mechanism.

18. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 having a set of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, the set including at least one of a lock mode and a super lock mode, and at least one of a child safety mode and a release mode, changing of the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of the at least two modes of the set being effected by a single power actuator.

19. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 18 in which the set includes the lock mode and the super lock mode and at least one of the child safety mode and release mode.

20. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 18 in which the set includes at least one of the lock mode and super lock mode and both of the child safety mode and the release mode.

21. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 having a set of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, the set including a child safety mode and a release mode, changing of the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of the modes being effected by a single power actuator.

29. A latch mechanism including a housing, a pawl movably mounted in the housing to release a latch, at least one of an inside and outside lock link mounted so as to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl wherein the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the link wherein the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is mounted for rotation about a common first axis with the pawl.

30. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 in which the at least one of an inside and outside lock link is pivotally mounted about a second axis for rotational movement between the first and second positions.

31. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 30 wherein the rotation of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link about the second axis occurs relative to a pawl lifter.

32. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 wherein the at least one of an inside and outside lock link comprises both an inside and outside lock links and in which the inside and outside lock links are both mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of both the inside and outside lock links.

33. A latch mechanism including a housing, a pawl movably mounted in the housing to release a latch, an inside and outside lock links mounted so as to be movable between a first position at which operation of an associated release member causes movement of the pawl to release the latch, and a second position at which operation of the associated release member does not cause movement of the pawl wherein at least one of the inside and outside lock links is mounted such that movement of the pawl is necessarily accompanied by movement of the at least one of the inside and outside lock links wherein the inside and outside lock links are both mounted for rotation about a common first axis with the pawl.

34. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 33 wherein rotation of one of the inside and outside lock links about the common first axis is necessarily accompanied by a corresponding rotation of the other of the lock links about the common first axis.

39. A latch mechanism having a set of operating modes, each mode having alternate states, the set including at least one of a lock mode and a super lock mode, and at least one of a child safety mode and a release mode, changing of the latch mechanism between alternate states of each of the at least two modes of the set being effected by a single power actuator wherein a cam having a single plane profile is driven by the actuator to select the states, further comprising at least one of an inside and outside lock link movable by the cam between a first position representing a first of the alternate states and a second position representing a second of the alternate states in which the cam includes at least two cam lobes which position the at least one of an inside and outside lock link in one of the first and second positions, with the at least two cam lobes being separated by a cam valley which positions the at least one lock link in the other of the first and second positions.

48. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 wherein the associated release member is selectively engageable to the at least one of an inside and outside lock link.

49. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 48 wherein the associated release member is disengaged from the at least one of an inside and outside lock link in the second position.

50. A latch mechanism as defined in claim 49 wherein movement of the associated release member is independent of movement of the at least one of an inside and outside lock link in the second position.